

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /064 W
-----052937 200326Z /14
O R 200320Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1186
INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4247

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US
SUBJECT: HOUSE RESOLUTION ON AID TO KOREA

1. MOFA'S PAK SANG-YONG CALLED IN POLCOUNS MORNING MAY 20
TO EXPRESS ROKG CONCERN OVER PROPOSED HOUSE RESOLUTION
ON AID FOR KOREA. PAK REALIZED THAT RESOLUTION WAS NON-
BINDING AND EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE IN NATURE, NONETHELESS
HE WISHED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINT:

A) THE TIMING FOR PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION WAS MOST
UNFORTUNATE SINCE IT WOULD COINCIDE MOST PROBABLY WITH
THE VISIT OF DR. BRZEZINSKI TO SEOUL. IT COULD NOT HELP
BUT AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE OF A VISIT WHICH THE ROKG VIEWED
AS MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST POSITIVE. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT
THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH DID NOT CONTROL ACTIONS OF THE
CONGRESS AND URGED THAT THE ROKG TAKE A STATESMAN LIKE
POSITION IN THIS REGARD. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOT YET
BE TOO LATE FOR FURTHER POSITIVE ACTION ON THE PART
OF THE ROKG. PAK DID NOT PICK UP ON THIS.

B) THE ROKG WAS ALSO CONCERNED AS TO HOW SUCH A
RESOLUTION WOULD BE VIEWED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN ASIA.
THEY MIGHT SEE THIS AS CONTRARY TO CURRENT US EXPRESSION
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OF A POSITIVE ASIAN POLICY. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT
MATTER AT HAND HAD BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR MONTHS AND HE
DOUBTED THAT A RESOLUTION SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED WOULD HAVE
ANY PROFOUND IMPACT.

C) FINALLY PAK STATED THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S DEPARTURE MIGHT

LEAD TO INCREASED SPECULATION. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO ANY CONSIDERATION OF SUCH A RESOLUTION. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO MAKE THE POINTS RAISED BY PAK TO WASHINGTON.

2. PAK ALSO NOTED THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL COUNSEL WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE RESOLUTION. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION ON THIS MATTER AS IT RELATES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION HAS BEEN CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THIS AFFAIR.

SNEIDER

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